

Connecticut Democrats Call on Republicans in Washington to Lower Gas Prices

Connecticut Has Seen 88% Increase in Gasoline Prices Under Bush

Hartford, CT – With gas prices soaring 54% nationwide and 88% in Connecticut since Bush took office, Connecticut Democrats called on the President and the Republican majority in Congress today to take action to deal with the biggest crisis facing America's working families. When he first ran for President in 2000, Bush said he would press oil-producing countries to increase oil supplies and drive down prices. However, since taking office he has done nothing to curb the skyrocketing costs of gasoline, and has instead used the crisis to further an agenda that benefits special interests and hurts the environment.

“President Bush has ignored the most immediate problem facing Connecticut's working families: the rising cost of gasoline,” said Connecticut Democratic Chair Nancy J. DiNardo, “Skyrocketing fuel prices are making it costly for working families to take care of everyday needs like getting to work, taking their children to school, and driving to their local supermarket. Republicans need to set aside their sham energy plan and pass legislation that will do more to make us independent of foreign oil and keeps gas prices down for the long haul.”

The New York Times reported on Monday that although the President's energy bill “would do little or nothing to address the current spike in crude oil and gasoline prices,” the President hoped to capitalize on growing public concerns to push Congress to act quickly on it. [New York Times, 4/18/05]

The President's energy bill currently before Congress would grant \$8 billion in tax breaks to the energy industry according to the Washington Post. The bill would also shield chemical makers from lawsuits stemming from the contamination of our nation's water supplies by the chemical MTBE.

“President Bush and the Republicans in Washington have already done enough for their fat-cat contributors and their friends in the oil industry,” added Nancy DiNardo “it's time for them to work to reduce gas prices and make it easier for families in America to put food on the table for their children.”

The Republicans' lack of action and absence of leadership in Washington has even caught the attention of their most conservative allies. Last month, ultra-conservative activist Grover Norquist wondered why Republicans inside the beltway had chosen to ignore an issue that is tightly squeezing millions of hardworking Americans, noting, “I don't know why this is not on the agenda.” [Wall Street Journal, 3/25/05]

Gas price increases for all 50 states can be found by visiting:
<http://www.democrats.org/specialreports/gasprices/statedata.html>